

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 11-17, 22-23 and 26-27 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 1 and 11 and cancels Claims 21, 24-25 and 28.

Claims 1-7, 11-17, 22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burnelli in view of Tower (U.S. Patent No. 1,914,000).

Claims 21, 23-25 and 27-28 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

In response, independent Claims 1 and 11 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claims 21 and 25, respectively. Accordingly, the present amendment cancels Claims 21 and 25 as well as Claims 24 and 28 for consistency.

In response to the rejections of Claims 1-7, 11-17, 22 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. However, in the spirit of moving prosecution forward for the present application, Claims 1 and 11 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claims 21 and 25 so that the rejections are now moot and Claims 1-7, 11-17, 22 and 26 are believed to be allowable.

The present amendment is submitted in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, which after Final Rejection permits entry of amendments canceling rejected claims or complying with requirements of form set forth in a previous Office Action. As the present amendment merely cancels claims and rewrites allowable Claims 21 and 25 in independent form as suggested in the previous Office Action, it is respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in

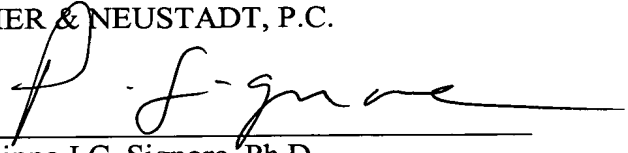
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condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-7, 11-17, 22-23 and 26-27 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. J. Signore', is written over a horizontal line.

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